(iv) Issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting process by the CVC;

(v) Issue of instructions by the CVC asking the organizations to adopt integrity pact in major Government procurement activities; Similar instructions have been issued by the Central Government on 16th June, 2009 advising the State Governments to adopt integrity pact in major procurements;

(vi) India is amongst the countries who have signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

(vii) Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedures and systems;

(viii) Issue of Citizen Charters.

Call drop

†*199. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the consumers are bearing the heavy loss and companies are reaping the benefits out of call drop while talking on mobile phone;

(b) whether Government is also aware that as a result of this, two private companies have earned profit to the tune of around Rs. 1700 crore in recent time;

(c) whether Government is going to make such provisions through TRAI by which call drop does not take place and if it does, then consumer does not have to bear the loss; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Although call drop causes inconvenience to consumers, it cannot be termed as an act of companies to reap benefits.

(b) Government has no such information.

(c) and (d) Call drop in wireless networks cannot be avoided completely. The call drop can happen due to inadequate coverage, interference etc. The customer moving from a coverage area to a non-coverage area may experience call drop. In such cases also, call charges are levied to the customers upto the duration of the call and rounded to the pulse rate which is generally of one minute duration.

TRAI had examined the issue of charging for short duration calls, which may happen due to call drops. However, it was not found feasible to implement a separate system of charging for short duration calls.

TRAI has reviewed the Quality of Service regulations recently and notified on 20th March, 2009 "The Standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (Wireline) and Cellular Mobile

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Telephone Service Regulations, 2009" which came into force with effect from 1.7.2009. In these regulations, the benchmark for Call Drop Rate has been made more stringent which is less than or equal to 2% as against 3% earlier. There are pockets/localities where call drop could be a problem due to insufficient coverage, interference etc. To address this issue, TRAI has specified in these new regulations a parameter called "% of worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH drop" (call drop) enabling the monitoring of the network at cell level by the service providers.

Future plan for Moon-mission

*200. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of our Moon-mission and the future plan in this regard;

(b) whether India proposes to send a man to the Moon;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the expenditure involved; and

(d) by when it would be accomplished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Chandrayaan-1 was the first Moon mission of India and was launched on 22nd October, 2008 from Indian launch vehicle PSLV from Satish Dawan Space Centre and this satellite reached Moon's orbit on November 8, 2008. On November 14, 2008 Indian National Flag was deposited on surface of the Moon by the Moon Impact Probe. Chandrayaan-1 carried out another 10 scientific experiments to study features of Moon's surface, terrain, mineralogical contents, etc. All these have given high quality data. India is planning for a follow-on mission Chandrayaan-2, which has an Orbiter and Lander which land on Moon and a Rover which moves on the surface of the Moon to probe Moon's surface.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

————————

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Amendment to nuclear laws

†1331. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that America has insisted on having Atomic Power Act, 1962 and Nuclear Liability Bill amended and passed respectively, before the arrival of Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Clinton to India;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.